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## AN EMERGENCY COINAGE OF COURLAND AND LIVONIA 1578-1579

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The beginning of coinage in Curlandia and Livonia has not been the subject of much scholarly work to date<sup>1</sup>. This is particularly true with regard to the emission of the double denarii of 1578–1579<sup>2</sup>. The present article reviews the circumstances of the appearance of these coins on the basis of documents available in Swedish, Polish and Russian archives.

The basic conditions for coin production in Curlandia were laid down by the Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund III August and the Master of the Livonian Order Gothard Ketler in the Pacta Subiectionis on 28 of November 1561<sup>3</sup>. In accordance with this agreement, the state coins of Gothard Ketler as duke of Curlandia had to be of the same weight and value as their Lithuanian counterparts. The two sides of these coins had to depict the coats of arms of the local and Polish sovereigns as well as Lithuanian insignia. Up to 1566 Gothard Ketler ruled over Curlandia as well as Livonia, but in this period he did not exercise his coinage rights.

In 1566 the Elder of Samogitia Jonas Chodkevičius was appointed governor of Livonia, with unlimited powers. In the same year Livonia was declared a Duchy (*Ducatus Ultradunensis*) and granted the right to have its own coat of arms. The new agreement between the elite of Livonia and Lithuania supported monetary unification<sup>4</sup>.

In a letter of 3 June, 1567, Sigismund III August wrote to Jonas Chodkevičius that the striking of coins should be subject to the interests of Livonia<sup>5</sup>. It is notable, that the sovereign praised the governor for having prevented the issuing of old-type coins in Riga and Livonia. At the end of the letter it was firmly stated, that the places for coin production in Livonia were to be chosen by the sovereign in conjunction with the governor. Attempts were thus made to stop the production of old-type coins in Riga and prevent the renewal of similar coinage for Livonia. Nevertheless, for reasons unknown, coin production in Riga continued.

Sigismund III August revised his attitude towards the issue, after having received threats from the unpaid Pärnu garrison that they would surrender to the ruler of Sweden. In 1572–1573 old-type coins in five denominations were struck in the castle of Dalholm<sup>6</sup>.

Gothard Ketler took advantage of the interregnum, and struck the first Curonian shillings and thalers in 1575, in spite of the decision of the Lublin Parliament to ensure a coinage of common value all over the Polish Commonwealth and vassal states. Thalers were still struck in 1576, and shillings up to the year 1577. It is quite obvious, that Gothard Ketler interrupted his coin production when the new king, Stephan Bathor, occupied the rebellious Danzig. At that time an extremely dramatic situation arose in Livonia, with Russian troops

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Fig. 1. The double denarius of Curlandia and Livonia struck in 1579. Photo: Francas Brukstas. 1:2.

## BANK OF LITHUANIA PLANS TO DESTROY UNISSUED 1991 500 AND 1000 LITŲ BANKNOTES

As the Bank of Lithuania prepares to release its first official 500 litų banknote since 1925, the director of the Cashier's Department, Arūnas Dulkys, has announced that plans are to destroy the unissued 500 and 1,000 litų notes that were printed in the United States. These notes were involved in the controversy surrounding the original issuance of the litas in 1993, when it was discovered that the lower denomination notes lacked numerous security features, and the 100, 500, and 1,000 litų were only nominally better. Only the 100 litų was issued and that is now being replaced.

In an article that appeared in *Lietuvos Žinios* August 18, 2000, it was stated, "The vaults of the Bank of Lithuania still store 500 and 1,000 litai notes which were printed by an American bank note company before the introduction of the litas. They will never be released into circulation because of their poor quality. Because of this reason the Bank of

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## AN EMERGENCY COINAGE

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2.

occupying the whole territory. Curlandia became the rallying-ground for the Lithuanian army.

On 20 February 1578 Stephan Bathor announced that Heronim Philipowski, commander (hauptman) of Nur, would be allowed to strike 30.000 marks of pure silver in Curonian coins<sup>7</sup>. Various written sources witness that the production of the new coins started at the end of 1578. Curonian double denarii are also mentioned in a letter of Stephan Bathor to Mikalojus Radvila, chancellor of Lithuania, on 28 December 1578: "moneta minimorum, qui in Livonia cudantur..."<sup>8</sup>. The sovereign wrote that, "if they can be put into circulation with no damage to the Commonwealth, then let them be introduced. But in case the latter are insufficient in quality and value and have to be replaced, the introduction of them must be forbidden". Furthermore, the letter gives assurance, that negotiations on the new coinage were soon to be held in Warsaw. The letter clearly indicates that the rulers of Lithuania had no prior knowledge of the appearance of the Curonian double denarii.

Mikalojus Radvila must have asked the king how he should react towards the introduction of the double denarii into the currency of Lithuania. The latter suggested that they should be allowed on condition that they were of real value.

In this connection there are a few points to be emphasized.

Stephan Bathor gave permission to strike Curonian coins without consulting or even informing the rulers of Lithuania and Poland, and thus exceeded his powers. Confronted with the accomplished deed, the Lithuanian authorities did not know how to react. Stephan Bathor suggested to the most influential representative, Mikalojus Radvila, that he should come to Lithuania and discuss the appointment of his son Kristupas Radvila to the post of governor of the province of Livonia. Mikalojus found the conditions acceptable. Thus, in his reply to Gothard Ketler of 30 January 1579, answering to the latter's inquiry about the rate to be established for the new coins in Lithuania, Stephan Bathor said that this issue was due to be discussed with Lithuanian senators in Grodno<sup>9</sup>. Lithuanian authorities did not undertake unilateral action. Instead they agreed to negotiate terms for the admission of the Curonian coins into the Lithuanian coin circulation. Abundant finds of Curonian double denarii in Lithuania suggest that a compromise was found (although Kristupas Radvila never became governor of Livonia). The attitude of the Lithuanians assembled in the Grodno Parliament can be deduced from a letter written by Nuncio Giovanni Andrea Caligari of Warsaw to Cardinal Alexandre Farnese on the 9 March 1579, which says that "His Majesty (Stephan Bathor) was highly respected and supported by Lithuanians at the Grodno Parliament, when he spoke of war against Moscow. His Majesty had to stay there for a long enough time to prepare for war and put the province in order, which has not been visited by any king since the death of Sigismund August<sup>10</sup>.

The documents indicate how interested Stephan Bathor was in the production of Curonian double denarii and their dissemination in Lithuania. This leads to a supposition that he was the main initiator behind the appearance of these coins. He was also motivated by developments in Livonia. Procurement of food and fodder for Lithuanian troops in Curlandia and Livonia on the basis of local resources was impossible. The financial situation of Gothard Ketler was complicated, as Livonia had been devastated by the continuous war. It was very difficult to organise an emergency coinage in Poland or Lithuania, which

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## UNISSUED NOTES

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Lithuania for several years is having a lawsuit against the producers of this money in the international arbitration in Paris. When the process is finished, the unfit 500 and 1,000 litai notes will be destroyed, said A. Dulkys."



Above: Unissued 1991-dated Pick-52 1,000 litų banknote, printed in the United States.

## EDITORIAL

What a waste of money, time, and effort. At least the Bank of Lithuania could salvage an unfortunate chapter in its early banknote fiasco by letting collectors purchase the unissued 1991-dated 500 and 1,000 litų notes.

They could easily be declared non-circulating legal tender, and issued to collectors such as the non-circulating legal tender 50 litų coins. It would be another numismatic revenue source for the bank.

These notes are also part of history, and it is a shame that plans have been made to have them destroyed. The bank will not even make photographs of these notes available because they have not been issued, despite the fact that photos of them appeared in collages of notes illustrated in newspapers prior to the original 1993 release of the litas.

Why not E-mail Audrone Gruodyte at the Cash department of the bank with your opinions at: [agruodyte@mail.lbank.lt](mailto:agruodyte@mail.lbank.lt).



# ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF LITHUANIA MEDAL

First Ecclesiastical Province of Lithuanian Medal

Sculptor: Petras Rimša

Minter: Huguenin Freres, LeLocle, Switzerland

Sizes: Various 100, 75, 60 mm.

Metal content: Bronze; bronze gold-plated

As we celebrate Christmas this millennium year, we are reminded of Lithuania's religious heritage. One significant numismatic item pointing to this is the medal by noted Lithuanian sculptor and medalist, Petras Rimša (1881-1961) to celebrate the Concordat signed by the Roman Catholic Church and the Lithuanian government in 1926. This medal occasionally surfaces on the numismatic market, and is one of Rimša's more popular medals.

During 1920-1939, not all the Lithuanian-inhabited areas in the legal boundaries of the country were secured for the Republic of Lithuania, primarily because of the large areas occupied by Poland including the capital city of Vilnius. Roman Catholic Lithuanians sought to prevent the Holy See in Rome from recognizing Polish military conquests, but were unsuccessful. The archdiocese of Vilnius was transferred to Poland, and the Poles forced Lithuanian Bishop Jurgis Matulaitis to resign. In order to appease the Lithuanian church, Pope Pius XI raised Matulaitis to the office of titular archbishop and named him apostolic visitor to Lithuania, with the Metropolitan See located in the temporary capital of Kaunas. The ecclesiastical province of Lithuania received an official blessing from Pope Pius XI on April 26, 1926.

Historically, Lithuania became a Christian nation in 1251 when Lithuania's King Mindaugas entered into relations with the Holy See, and Pope Innocent IV established the diocese of Lithuania. In 1252 Mindaugas was crowned King of Lithuania, in the name of Pope Innocent IV, who declared him to be a "special son of the Holy Roman Church."

OBVERSE: Depicted are the images of Popes Innocent IV (left), and Pius XI (right) who founded respectively, the first Bishopric and the first Metropolitan See in Lithuania. In the background is the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome, and at the top the personal insignia of Pope Pius XI.

REVERSE: Featured is the image of Bishop Kristijonas (Christian), the first Lithuanian bishop, who received his appointment from Pope Innocent IV on July 17, 1251. Prior to his appointment, Kristijonas was a priest of the Teutonic Order under the German archbishop of Riga. Kristijonas established his See in the pagan Samogitian region of Lithuania, but only remained until 1259 when he left for Germany and ended his days in 1270 as a suffragan bishop of Mainz.

On the right is the image of Archbishop Juozapas Skvireckas (1873-1959), the first Archbishop of Lithuania. Skvireckas was a well-known scholar and theologian who translated the Bible into the Lithuanian language. He governed the Kaunas archdiocese for almost the entire period of pre-WWII Lithuanian independence. He fled Soviet-occupied



Lithuania in 1944 and went to a convent in the Austrian Alps, where he lived until his death. His personal coat-of-arms appears at the top of the medal. In addition to the names and titles of the two men, the secondary inscription translates, "Having Liberated Ourselves from the enemy's hands, we shall serve with more courage." (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9...)



## 4. AN EMERGENCY COINAGE (Continued from pg. 2...)

could supply the army and administration operating in Livonia. The easiest solution was to entrust Gothard Ketler with the assignment. The Curonian market was too limited to supply the army, and it was therefore necessary to take the broader Lithuanian market into consideration and strike coins of Lithuanian type and value. On the other hand, attention should be drawn to the fact that the war was based on the resources of Lithuania, and its army was the main consumer of the new coins. Therefore the Lithuanian symbols were given priority on the coins.

The quantity of silver allocated to the coin production was considerable. Jonas Chodkevičius received, for example, on 30 March 1579 permission to strike 40.000 marks at the Vilnius mint within a period of two years<sup>11</sup>. He had to pay the Treasury 15 grossi on every mark struck. If Curlandia had the same minting fees, the revenue received by the duke could have amounted to 15.000 silver gulden. By comparison the expenditure of the Treasury of Lithuania on Livonia in 1579 totalled 33.200 silver gulden<sup>12</sup>. Thus, the emission of new coins was an extremely significant source of income for Gothard Ketler. Stephan Bathor believed that money would serve a common goal – the war against Russia.

In evaluating Gothard Ketler's initiative in this matter, we should not forget that he was an insignificant figure in the war and the Commonwealth's policy towards Livonia. The interests and will of the king, Lithuania and, to a lesser extent, Poland were the decisive factors. His role became even less important, when military operations began. Not a word is said about Curlandia and its ruler in the letter of Stephan Bathor to Mikalojus Radvila. The strongest military and civil power in Livonia was vested in its governor, who received direct orders from the king. Though the name of Jonas Chodkevičius, governor of Livonia (resigned in 1578) is not mentioned in the documents reviewed, there is no doubt that the king discussed the issue of coinage with him. The link between Heronim Philipowski and Stephan Bathor was by no means accidental, testified by the permission issued in 1583 to strike coins in the mint of Vilnius during the period of 1584–1587<sup>13</sup>. Unfortunately, the permission given to Heronim Philipowski on 20 February 1578 has not survived, and a number of important circumstances relating to the subject may well remain unknown to us. Monetary loans to the king usually facilitated the issue of such permissions. We can only assume that money lent to the king was returned to Heronim Philipowski in the form of profits from the mint.

It is interesting to note, that the denomination chosen for the coins did not have an equivalent in the monetary market of Livonia. In 1572 the Lithuanian grossus equalled six Livonian shillings or five Lithuanian double denarii. The shilling was thus slightly lower in value than the double denarius. Even if it were assumed that the shilling equalled the Lithuanian double denarius, it remains incomprehensible why Curonian double denarii and not shillings were coined. It is not likely that the double denarii were issued with a view to a uniform system of coinage being introduced inside the whole of the Polish Commonwealth in the near future. No one could predict the value, nominals and appearance of the common monetary units. The Parliament of Lithuania and Poland did not touch upon the mintage issue until the 3 March 1578<sup>14</sup>, whereas the mint ordinance was published on 24 April 1578<sup>15</sup>.

On the other hand, the Lithuanian denomination chosen for the coins is not characteristic for Poland. Its chance of survival in the monetary system was therefore very uncertain.

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## PRODUCTION OF 500 LITŲ BANKNOTES IS BEING COMPLETED

*(From LIETUVOS ŽINIOS, August 18, 2000)*

**TRANSLATED BY ALGIRDAS KEPALAS**

The printing of new 500 litų notes ordered by the Bank of Lithuania in Germany is being completed. They show a portrait of the fosterer of Lithuanianism, Vincas Kudirka and the Bell which did rouse his countrymen.

The director of the Cashier's Department of the Bank of Lithuania, Arūnas Dulkys asserted that the new notes could appear in circulation at the end of this year (2000). This will be the highest denomination and will put the present highest of 200 litų to second place.



According to A. Dulkys, classical money structure usually has notes of six denominations in circulation. At this time notes of five denominations circulate in Lithuania, thus the 500 litų denomination will fill in this space.

Specialists of the Bank of Lithuania have several times visited Giesecke & Devrient, G.m.b.H., the German printer of bank notes and securities who produces 500 litų denomination notes, to check the quality of separate stages of the production. Another visit is intended in the near future.

The 500 litų notes will be of larger size than the present ones. They will be protected by the most modern means of money security and they will correspond to the level of protection of the highest denominations of Euro notes.



This leads to the conclusion that there existed a preconceived notion when the Curonian double denarii were issued that they should circulate in Lithuania, not in Curlandia or Livonia. The double denarii were struck in large quantities, as a clear indication of the intentions of the issuers. Heronim Philipowski had to strike i.e. 34,560,139 double denarii.

When all the circumstances of the double denarii issue of 1578–1579 are evaluated, it emerges that questions of their authorisation and function were indeed complicated. Most probably they were joint Livonian and Curonian coinage of Stephan Bathor and Gothard Ketler, intended to supply the Lithuanian troops in Livonia. There is nothing unusual about that. A similar situation is found in connection with the joint coinage of the Master of the Livonian Order and the Archbishop of Riga.

## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> E. Mrowiński, Monety księstwa Kurlandii i Semigalii, Warszawa 1989; I. Leimus, O čekanke monet v Doleskom (Dalenskom) zamke v 1572 i 1573 godah, *Proceedings of the academy of sciences of the Estonian SSR, Social Sciences*, vol.37, no.1, 1988, p.85–98.
- <sup>2</sup> V. Aleksiejūnas, Nowe dane o dwudenarach 1578–1579 r. This paper was presented at a conference in Torun, 12 and 13 November 1992.
- <sup>3</sup> A. Plateris, Teisiniai Liūonijos ir Kuržo santykiai su Lietuva (XVI–XVIII amšiais), Kaunas 1938, p.167, no.3.
- <sup>4</sup> A. Tyla, Lietuva ir Livonija XVI a. pabaigoje – XVII a. pradžioje, Vilnius 1986, p.20.
- <sup>5</sup> Biblioteka muzeum narodowego im.Czartoryskich w Krakowie, MN 743, T.1.LL.115–117.
- <sup>6</sup> I. Leimus, O čekanke monet v Doleskom (Dalenskom) zamke..., pp. 85–98.
- <sup>7</sup> C. Schirren, Verzeichniss livländischer Geschichts-Quellen in Schwedischen Archiven und Bibliotheken, Heft 1, Dorpat 1861, no.1974: “K. Stepan an den Herzog Gothart. Fürsprache für Hieronimus Philippowski, Hauptmann von Nur, in der herzoglichen Münze für 30000 mark reinem silber Münzen lassen zu dürfen”.
- <sup>8</sup> Biblioteka Jagielonska (Kraków). R.1000 (kopje listów króla Stefana Bartorego do Radziwillów od r.1576–1584. LL 75–76.
- <sup>9</sup> C. Schirren, Verzeichniss livländischer Geschichts..., no.1975. Riksarkivet (Sweden). Livonica collection I, vol.5. and 36. I am very much obliged to Mrs. Anna Karin Hermodsson, who procured copies of the documents.
- <sup>10</sup> G. Micheli, Lietuva kai kuriuose Šiaurės Italijos archyvuose, Kultūros barai, no.6., 1993, p.68–69. Parma state archive. Archivio estero farnesiano. Busta 119 (Polonia). 141.
- <sup>11</sup> Centralnyj gosudarstvennyj archiv drevnih aktov (Moskva). F.389.D:64. LL.20 ob-21.
- <sup>12</sup> H. Kotarski, Wojsko polsko-litewskie podczas wojny inflanckiej 1576–1582, *Studia i materialy do historii wojskowosci*, T.17, Cz.1., Warszawa 1971, p.123. T.17, cz.2, Warszawa 1971, p.140.
- <sup>13</sup> Centralnyj gosudarstvennyj archiv drevnih aktov (Moskva). F.389. D.71. LL.88–88 ob.
- <sup>14</sup> Volumina Legum, T.2.Sankt Petersburg 1859, p.189. I.Lappo, Velikoe Knjažestvo Litovskoe za vremja ot zaključenija Ljublinskoj unii do smerti Stefana Batorija, T.1.Sankt-Petersburg, 1901, p.169.
- <sup>15</sup> W. Terlecki, System monetarny Stefana Bartorego, *Wiadomości Numizmatyczne*, R.5, Z.2–3, 1961, pp.125–127.

## BALZEKAS LITHUANIAN MUSEUM NOW HAS E-MAIL ADDRESS

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60629 (773) 582-6500 now has an E-mail address. It is: lithuanianmuseum@msn.com. You can E-mail them to contact their gift shop, genealogy department, and other museum departments. Contact them for a copy of the latest issue of the Museum Review which is filled with educational articles, plus items they have for sale in their gift shop.

The Museum also welcomes copies of obituaries of Lithuanian-Americans for their extensive obituary files in the genealogy department. Especially wanted are “old” obituaries here in America. Send them copies of your family’s obituaries.

## TWO INTERESTING ITEMS ON E-BAY

Our LNA members have been keeping this editor informed about some interesting items on “E-Bay” auction.

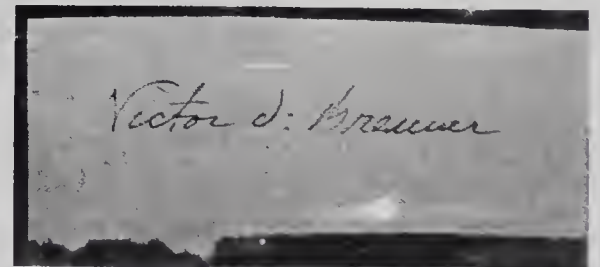
Of the several which have been brought his way, two of them are especially interesting.

One auctioned in October was a 1938 medal by the sculptor Louis Rosenthal (1888-1964) entitled “W.J. Dickey & Sons Centennial Medal.” Bronze, 76 mm. The biography of the artist was as follows: “The sculptor, Louis Rosenthal, was born in Lithuania. His original name was Leon Chatel. He emigrated to America in 1907



and studied with Ephraim Keyser in Baltimore. He was elected to membership in the National Sculpture Society. His best known medal was the Burton-Levin Refugee Union of faith plaque executed in 1909.”

The other item put on auction in October was an autograph of Victor David Brenner, the designer of the U.S. Lincoln cent who was from Šiauliai, Lithuania. The same autograph sold for \$451 in 1996.”



Of course, we encourage our LNA members to list their items for sale here in The Knight FIRST before going to any auction firm.



By

Jonas K. Karys 52.

English translation by  
V.L.G. Matelis

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STATERIS/Stater. (From the Greek) Several Greek coins of gold, electrum and even the larger silver coins, were designated and were called staters in relation to an archaic weight, even though they were not of the same weight, and their value in drachmas likewise differed. The earlier gold staters weighed about 8 to 8.5 gr. Electrum staters, about 16 gr. Large, composite silver coins were also termed staters.

STERLINGAS/Sterling. 1. The standard norm of purity for Great Britains coins. In silver, earlier, at 0.925, from 1920, 0.500. In gold, earlier 0.995, now 0.19166, or 11/12. In the 18th century, one gold penny was equal to 20 silver pence, which were popularly termed starlings. In larger transactions, these latter were weighed in a group, and from this practice the term "pound sterling" arose. The noun sterling itself, it is believed, rose from the word "esterling," that is, from the German tradesmen (from Hansa) imported into England to strike coins, or "esterlings," the silver coins they produced were soon termed esterlins, esterlings, and finally, in the colloquial, it became "sterling." Sterling originally was attached to the first silver coin, introduced by Henry II in 1180 A.D. and amply struck until the 15th century's end. That coin was the penny.

2. Silver bars of 0.925 purity for the production of tableware (knives, spoons, forks) and ornaments.

STIEBŲ VARTAI/Mast Portals. An exclusive symbol which rose and was developed in medieval Lithuania, originated by Grand Duke Gediminas, and earlier, known as the Columns of Gediminas. But since this symbol consisted not only of the masts, but in its fullest meaning, portals or gates, from the very beginning they were pictured as mortised from the masts (and not from concrete or some other material piled up), and naturally received another, more appropriate name, mast portals. Probably the first to use this term was a speaker at the funeral of King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund Vaza, in 1632. It is now firmly anchored in the Lithuanian language, and is beginning to take root in scientific literature. The mast portals was the symbol of Gediminas sovereignty, in the same sense and significance as other "portals" of other old rulers, castles, cities (janua, porta, brama), to be found in old seals, coins, etc. In earlier times, portals or gates were considered to be the beginning of all beginnings. The Romans even had a god (two-faced Janus). Biblical profits rendered judgements in cases, roosting together under the gates of the seat of government. The portals of the capital, as an expression of the governments sovereignty, were utilized on their seals by Romes emperors. Later, even though not ruling Rome, but claiming themselves to be at least its titular sovereigns, they continued to picture the portals of that eternal city in their seals. The countrys government in Turkey was at one time known as the high portals. Portals are included in an entire series of Europes towns coats-of-arms (nearest us, Riga, Turno, Klaipėda). The concept of portals could have been brought into Lithuania during the middle ages by the monks, spread everywhere, many of whom were employed as secretaries in the burcaus of our Grand Dukes.



Stiebu Vartai: 1-2, Gedimino-Kęstučio laikų kapose; 3-5, Kęstučio, Vytauto ir Žyg. Augusto monetose (pastarojoje S. V. — antroji vietoj po Vyčio); 6, Nepriklausomos Lietuvos monetoje.

However, the symbol of Gediminas is not strictly a copy of some foreign portals, but a characteristic of the straight lines of ancient Lithuanian architecture, and a combination of geometrial figures. When the mast portals as a meaningful symbol, was set, we have no true facts, but it began and was brought to public attention at the founding of Vilnius, the permanent capital at the beginning of the 14th century, when it appeared on the flag and shield at the castle gates of Gediminas. As an exclusive symbol it was utilized in the cast kapos in Gediminas reign, and Kęstutis placed it upon the earliest modern Lithuanian coins in the 6th decade of the 14th century.



Later, that symbol was often used on seals, shields and coins by an entire succession of Gediminas posterity. It was found sculptured into the tombstone of Karigala, Gediminas grandson, who fell in 1390 in the Vilnius battle with the Germanic Knights. On the pennants of Vytautas army in the battle of Grunwald against the Teutonic Knights, the Mast Portals shone (10 of 40), still symbolizing the sovereignty of the Grand Duchy (as attested by K. Kiesiecki and V. Kojalavičius) though the supreme exclusive symbol/coat-of-arms was the now fully matured Vytis, at that time just about displacing the Mast Portals to second place. In the years after Vytautas, the Mast Portals gradually passed into regional pennant of Vilnius, and later, into that of the palatinates. So that symbol arose in Vilnius, gained the status of exclusive symbol, and in the end, returned to Vilnius, when the symbol of the entire nation without question, became the Vytis.

The Mast Portals featured on the coins of the Grand Duchy ended with the reign of Sigismund August, the last descendant of Gediminas, on the throne of Vilnius. However, this symbol continued to appear on the seals of rulers of the joint Lithuanian-Polish state even later. It even figures in the seal of August II Saxon, symbolizing there the old Lithuanian capital, and together with other exclusive symbols, represents Lithuanian Propria itself. We have heard tales of a certain connection of the mast portals with some Roman strain (columna, colona); or with symbols struck at one time upon Kurdish coins., or the "Labarum" of Kiev, or the inscriptions on the bracteates of Dorestat. Or with the "facade of Mindaugas church." All these are fantasies. Likewise, this symbol was never the symbol of Jogaila or his descendants. They simply utilized it by the right of succession, as did other descendants of Gediminas: Kęstutis, Vytautas, Švitrigaila. In the days of the Lithuanian Republic 1918-1940, the Mast Portals were at once recognized as a national symbol, and was freely used in documents, seals, pennants, in orders, as monetary symbols, etc.

STIKLAS/Glass. A. By nature, a part of volcanic solution which, when reaching the air separately from other elements, suddenly congeals into a new form. B. Synthetic-A clear, of non-organic elements, ingot, congealed into a hard product of varied and improved uses. Since it is easily smashed and difficult to produce, glass coins were never considered a fitting material for production. However, in the early Byzantine era (5th to the 7th centuries) so-called "exagios" were fashioned from it--as scales for coins, or for lead seals on merchandize for rulers, or for busts of national prefects, or monograms. Such knickknacks and other similar formations of glass were well known in the earliest ages of the modern era in Egypt and Arabia. It is believed that they were there a type of means of exchange, or at least, tokens for small change.

SUBERATAS/Facsimiles. A coin, produced from copper or iron, but coated with gold, silver or other metal that it appears (and, at times, is claimed to be) to be all of the coated metal. When the coin loses its "coating," it is termed anima (Latin for soul). This coin was first introduced by the Greeks, but the Romans as well as the Arabs used it, and individual counterfeiters used it and continue to do so. Also, a famous coin reproduced.

SUCRE. AnEcuadorean monetary unit of 100 centavos. A nickel coin.

SUDĖTINĖ MONETA/Major Coin. A coin which is composed of more than one unit of the state's monetary system (for example, 10 lits, 5 marks, \$10, etc.).

SUKAKTUVINĖS MONETOS/Anniversary Coins. These are issued on the occasion of an anniversary of certain events, as the 1958 silver dollar of England, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of British Columbia, or the 1938 silver 10 litų piece of Lithuania, on the occasion of our 20 years of independence.



Sukaktuvinės monetos: 1. Lietuvos 20 metų Nepriklausomybės (1938); 2, Vokietijos, Šillerio 175 m. gimimo sukakčiai paminėti (1934).

SUMUŠTINĖ MONETOS/Clad Coins. These were first introduced in the USA in 1965. They are struck of three layers of metal of which the outer layers are metalurgically joined to the inner layer, the outer layers being of similar metal. The dimes, quarters and half dollars are so processed currently. Numismatists have noted coins similar to this in the middle age hoards found in Europe, though most of these have been classed by experts as frauds or counterfeits.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE



# s. NEW 100 LITU BANKNOTE ISSUED

The Bank of Lithuania has issued a new 100 litų banknote dated 2000, to replace the original 1991-dated banknotes that have circulated since the litas was re-introduced in 1993. The notes were printed by the Swiss printers Orell Fussli Security Printing, and contain numerous security features. They were released into circulation on Monday, October 16, 2000. The size remains the same, 135 x 65 mm.

The 1991-dated 100 litų banknotes will remain legal tender until June 30, 2001. After that they can still be turned in at all commercial banks in Lithuania until June 30, 2002. Beginning July 1, 2002, they can only be turned in at the Bank of Lithuania and its branches.

The design is a fresh, updated version of the 1991 note. It bears the "classic" pre-World War II Vytautas emblem of the Republic of Lithuania as was included by the artist Rytis Valantinas, and not the contemporary Vytautas in official use today. A news release by the Bank of Lithuania gives the following information about the new banknote:



## Front

On the right of the banknote there is a portrait of Simonas Daukantas (1793-1864), the initiator of the national rebirth movement, historian, who has written the first history of Lithuania in the Lithuanian language. There are the inscriptions LIETUVOS BANKAS (BANK OF LITHUANIA) at the top and ŠIMTAS LITŲ (ONE HUNDRED LITAS) at the bottom of the banknote. At the left edge of the banknote vertically runs the inscription LIETUVOS BANKO VALDYBOS PIRMININKAS (CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE BANK OF LITHUANIA) alongside with his signature and the year of issue 2000. The front of the banknote contains green, light brown and bluish colours.

## Back

The picture of the Old Town of Vilnius, one of the largest in the Middle and East Europe, is presented on the back of the note. In the centre an architectural ensemble of Vilnius University, founded in 1579, with St. John's church and the belfry is depicted. There are the inscriptions LIETUVOS BANKAS (BANK OF LITHUANIA) at the top and ŠIMTAS LITŲ (ONE HUNDRED LITAS) at the left edge of the note. The back of the banknote contains green, brown and bluish colours.

## Security features of the banknote

1. Special paper of white colour characterised by a specific cracle, non-fluorescent under ultraviolet light.
2. Watermark - multi-tonal portrait of Simonas Daukantas visible when the note is held up to the light.
3. Security thread with the repeated microtext 100 LITU, fluorescent under ultraviolet light in blue colour.



4. Denomination numeral 100 printed in optically variable inks changing colour from gold to green.
5. Microperforation of the denomination numeral 100 visible when the note is held up to the light.
6. See-through feature front to back in perfect register.
7. Recognition sign for the blind - two raised isosceles triangles.
8. Raised intaglio printing of the portrait, denomination numerals, facsimile text, inscriptions, drawing on the back of the note provides a tactile surface easily distinguished by touch.
9. Latent image (denomination numeral 100) in the left shoulder of the portrait visible when the note is tilted towards the light at the acute angle.
10. White lines on intaglio printed inscriptions LIETUVOS BANKAS, SIMTAS LITU and denomination numerals 100.
11. A repeated microtext LB 100 LTL printed on the right-hand side of the portrait.
12. A repeated microtext LB 100 LTL printed below the portrait.
13. A repeated microtext 100 LTL printed at the bottom of the drawing on the back of the note, on the edge of the roofs of the buildings.
14. A repeated microtext LIETUVOS BANKAS (BANK OF LITHUANIA) printed on the right- hand side on the back of the note.
15. Elements (front and back), intended for the anti-colour copier protection: the symbol of the state emblem and background surrounding it, the background of the portrait, security line structure, specific fine line patterns.
16. Invisible fibres embedded in the paper fluorescent under ultraviolet light in blue and red.
17. Vertical serial number fluorescent under ultraviolet light in green.
18. Three denomination numerals printed in invisible inks fluorescent under ultraviolet light in light green.
19. St. John<sup>TM</sup>s Church and the belfry fluorescent under ultraviolet light in yellow-green.

## ECCLESIASTICAL MEDAL

(Continued from pg 3...)

In addition to the medal itself, Rimša incorporated the medal as part of his sculpture entitled "Night and Day." This two sided statue was also made to commemorate the 1926 Concordat. One of the two originals was presented by Lithuanian President Antanas Smetona to Pope Pius XI, and was placed in the Vatican Museum. "Day" is represented by a mystic maiden in native costume, awake and bearing the sun on her breast. The motif is also carried out in the base by the open eye, the child stepping upward, and the flight of birds to the left.

The reverse side, "Night," shows the maiden in native costume fast asleep. The moon is decorated on her breast. The base of the statue shows the closed eye, the man descending the stairway, and the flight of birds returning to the right.

At the base of the foundation of the "Day" obverse is the title "LITHUANIA," with a large Ecclesiastical medal reverse implanted above. On the "Night" side is found "PIO XI" for "Pope Pius XI," and a large medal obverse featuring Pius XI implanted above.

AT RIGHT: "Day and Night" sculpture featuring the Ecclesiastical Medal at the base.





# WANT/FOR SALE ADS

10. WANTED: Picture postcards of Lithuania and Memel/Klaipėda pre-1941. Also books on Lithuania in the English language published before 1940. J.R. Greene, 26 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA 01331. (978) 249-0156.

FOR SALE: I have 15 sets of the Y-1-14 1925, 1936, 1938 regular coins of Lithuania (14 coins), for \$150 per set. I also have loose ones. Write or call for those prices. Vincent Samaska, 5234 S. Kilbourne Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632-4706. (773) 735-4722.

FOR SALE: 2000 "Great Art of Artillery" 50 litų commemorative silver proof coin. Only 2,000 minted! \$75.00. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture Gift Shop, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629. (773) 582-6500.

FOR SALE: Begin your Lithuanian banknote collection with the first 20th century Lithuanian centas banknotes (dated September 10, 1922): *Pick-1* 1 centas. UNC \$55; XF \$45. *Pick-2* 5 centai. UNC \$55; XF \$45. *Pick-3* 20 Centų (scarce note!) XF \$85.00; *Pick-4* 50 Centų (scarce note!) VF \$55. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224.

WANT/FOR SALE ADS are FREE to LNA members. List your items here!

# POLISH BANKNOTE BOOK PUBLISHED

"We would like to introduce the new, long awaited Catalogue of Polish Banknotes 1916-1994 by Czesław Milczak: This 308 page book includes 690 black-and-white photos of 350 banknotes. The catalogue embraces also the following issues: WWI German occupation notes 1916-1918; notes of the German Ostbank in Posen, 1916; notes of the German Darlehnskasse Ost in Kaunas (1918); notes of the German WWII occupation 1939-1944; notes of the Polish government in exile 193-1942, notes of the Jewish Ghetto in Litzmannstadt 1940-1944.

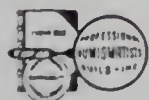
The valuation list for three grades is included. Limited English edition only 500 copies, hardbound. The retail price is \$40. Warszawskie Centrum Numizmatyczne, ul. Hoza 43/49, PL 00-681 Warszawa. E-mail: [moneta@wcn.pl](mailto:moneta@wcn.pl). <http://www.wcn.pl>."

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